

event and required, at that time, a contribution of \$1,000 per ticket. Mercer provided Fowler a briefing memo prior to a Minnesota trip Fowler had scheduled for May 20 which stated:

The O'Connors are on the hook with [Clinton/Gore '96 Campaign Chairman] Peter Knight to raise \$50k for the re-election. I'm meeting with them tonight to talk to them about bringing in the American Indian money of \$50k for the Gala [as well as the solicitation of a new trustee]. You might want to reinforce this and thank them for their support. Pat is certain to inquire about the status of the Indian gaming issue at Interior.²⁵¹

The same memo suggests that Fowler also make a courtesy call to Kitto, and notes:

Interested in issue pending at Interior. Still should be reminded of the help we need from him to recruit table buyers from the American Indian community for June Gala.

Mercer did meet with the O'Connors over dinner the evening of May 19, but he maintains that Hudson was discussed only in passing late in the meal,²⁵² and that financial commitments were not discussed because the occasion was more social in nature.²⁵³

For his part, O'Connor insists that he never made a specific commitment of what he could raise for the DNC from the Indians, and suggests that the task, in any event, was Kitto's responsibility. Yet, whoever may have been directly responsible to make it happen, O'Connor's

²⁵¹Memorandum from David Mercer to Chairman Fowler, May 19, 1995.

²⁵²Though he claims the discussion was limited, Mercer says that O'Connor's remarks were consistent with the letters concerning the subject (presumably O'Connor's May 8 letter to Ickes), including specific references to Gov. Thompson's and Sen. D'Amato's supposed support for the application and the allegation that alleged Hudson dog track owner Delaware North was tied to organized crime.

²⁵³Notwithstanding his own May 19 memo, Mercer also disputes that O'Connor ever made a specific commitment of funds he could raise from any Indian source. Mercer testified that he played no part in the Hudson matter after the April 28 meeting, other than hearing out O'Connor during his periodic calls, and Mercer says he never knew of contributions being solicited or received from the Hudson opponent tribes.